GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2518
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
PRODUCTION OF BASMATI RICE
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agriculture Research has formulated a new policy to boost the production of Basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to make seeds easily available to the Basmati growing marginal and small farmers of the country particularly in the coastal areas of Maharashtra and also to provide them financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has developed high yielding Basmati type varieties and their matching production-protection technologies. It has also undertaken breeder seed production for the large scale cultivation so as to enhance basmati rice production.

(b) The improved varieties include Pusa Basmati-1, Haryana Basmati-1, Ranbir Basmati and Kasturi.These varieties have higher yield potential and shorter plant height than traditional varieties, namely Taraori Basmati and Basmati 370.

Intensive researh is underway to develop still better varieties and production technologies under the aegis of All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project which has active research programmes on Basmati rice at Kapurthala (Punjab), Kaul (Haryana), Pantnagar (Uttar Pradesh), New Delhi and R.S. Pura (Jammu & Kashmir).

(c) Yes, Sir. Concerted efforts are being made to make the quality seed of improved varieties available to marginal and small farmers where Basmati rice is grown. The Basmati rice is, however, not cultivated in coastal areas of Maharashtra.

(d) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programmes under which assistance is provided for the distribution of certified seeds of location specific crop varieties. It is also implementing Rice Seed Minikit Programme under which seed of newly released varieties is distributed in minikits.